

DAVID, THE WAITING KING

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Focus Everyone on earth is accountable to authority. God will profoundly bless us if we live our lives submitted to authority.

Open Tell about your first job as a teenager or young adult.

Read All authority comes from God, and rebellion comes from Satan. As believers, we need to reject the rebellious attitude that is pervasive in our culture. Rebellion against God's authority or human authority is a serious sin with serious consequences.

Everything in the Bible and everything God does is by and through authority. When we understand and accept God's principle of submission to authority, our spiritual growth and understanding of God increase. We also experience God's favor, blessing and protection.

From the life of King David, we learn there are four tests of our submission to authority. The Arrogance Test shows if our attitude is humble toward people of authority in our lives. The Abuse Test gives us the opportunity to honor imperfect leaders while drawing the line and removing ourselves from damaging situations. The Advantage Test shows we can use our strengths to honor and serve our leaders rather than to usurp their authority. The Association Test teaches us that having rebellious friends in our life will influence us towards having our own rebellious attitudes.

- Talk**
1. Which of the four tests of submission stood out to you the most? Why?
 2. In 1 Samuel 15, we see how Saul lost his position as king because of rebellion. What other things do people lose when they rebel?

3. Read John 2:1–9. Even Jesus had to make the choice to submit to human authority (his mother). When He did, He honored both her and God, His Father. Has there been a time in your life when you didn't want to obey, but then made the right choice?
4. Ephesians 6:1–3 tells us God promises long life to children who obey their parents. What other benefits have you seen in your life as a result of submission to authority?
5. Why does God bless those who submit to authority?

Live

What are specific, practical ways to honor those who are in authority in your life? Is there an area where you're finding it difficult to submit to authority, such as family, work, church or civil government? Share this with the group, then write down one step you'll take this week to honor those in authority in your life.

Pray

Thank God for the people He has placed in authority in your life. Praise Him for being a good God who gives us the protection of His authority and human authority. Repent of any rebellion or stubbornness in your heart. Submit every area of your life to God's authority. Pray for those who have a position of authority in your life.